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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 20 | Humidity 65% Breezy with low clouds Sensex 81,444 | Nifty 24,812 | Gold 99,554 | Silver 1,08,598 | Dollar 86.34 | Euro 99.77 | GBP 116.99

STAY ORDER

Lack of clarity on BBMP zoning rules and written guidelines causing unease in residential areas over PGs, even as thousands depend on them for housing

PAGE 5

CLOUD SHIFT

Rain relents across state as south-west monsoon transitions from peak to active phase, IMD has issued no special warning for next 5 days

PAGE 6

Should areas with educational institutions have pelican signals? Experts say yes, as parents point to daily risk to life and limb for their wards in absence of functional signals or police presence

STOP, LOOK, GO... AT YOUR OWN RISK

Case in point: Pedestrian signal at Vittal Mallya Road near PU college is chaotic mess

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A chaotic five-road junction near St. Joseph Indian Composite PU College in central Bengaluru is emerging as a daily safety hazard for school students due to poor pedestrian infrastructure, malfunctioning signals, and alleged lack of on-ground traffic assistance. With such sensitive areas thrown open to the buzz of traffic, experts as well as citizens say it is high time that the city gets pelican signals installed.

The pedestrian signal at Vittal Mallya Road, frequented by nearly 3,000 students during school hours, often fails to function. Students and parents say the situation is especially dangerous in the absence of dedicated crossing phases or deployed traffic police.

"There was no traffic cop or functional pedestrian signal when I tried to cross the road with my daughter. We had to wait several minutes and dodge traffic," said Mohammed Rafiq, a parent, who recently filed a formal complaint to traffic authorities. He also pointed out that nearby junctions such as Siddalingaiah junction face similar issues.

Rafiq questioned how, despite around 25 CCTV cameras installed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Three traffic personnel have been deployed to assist pedestrians, especially students. We are managing traffic manually here, but we have visited the spot and ensured pedestrian safety is not being compromised

— Assistant Commissioner of Police (West Division)

This plan is fail-proof

If student fails, teacher won't sail — salary hikes and grants now tied to SSLC performance

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

In a bold twist to academic accountability, the education department has made it clear: If students flunk, teachers won't get a free pass either.

According to a new directive issued to all District Deputy Directors, aided school teachers whose subjects record less than a 60% pass rate in the SSLC exam will face the heat.

Their annual salary increment will be put on hold, and if poor performance persists for three consecutive years, their salary grants will be completely withdrawn.

Officials said that this stern move is to address declining academic standards, the Department of Secondary Education has ordered strict action against private aided high schools in Karnataka that recorded poor results in the 2024–25 SSLC (Class 10) examinations.

The directive, issued to all District Deputy Directors, outlines a series of punitive measures, including the withholding of salary increments and suspension of grants to teachers and schools that fail to meet performance benchmarks.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Green dialogue

The 5th edition of India Green Energy Expo is being held with the aim of serving as a comprehensive platform for stakeholders in the renewable energy ecosystem. This year's edition will highlight the critical role of renewable energy in accelerating electrification and supporting India's Net Zero targets. **Where: Bengaluru International Exhibition Centre, Madavara; When: June 19 to 21, 10 am to 5.30 pm**

02 Rhythm reverie

'The Goddess', a classical dance performance, will be presenting three compositions that explore the forms of different goddesses. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: June 21, 6 pm**

03 Musical exploration

Swar, a platform dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Indian classical music, is presenting 'Colours of India – Morning Raagas', a soulful morning of melodious explorations in Hindustani and Carnatic traditions. **Where: Artkhoj, JP Nagar; When: June 28, 10 am**

04 Resonant voices

On the occasion of World Music Day, Samarthanam Trust is launching the Samarthanam Sisters — a gifted singing duo comprising Anusha and Vasundhara, two visually impaired artists specialised in Hindustani Classical. **Where: White Petals, Palace Ground; When: June 21, 6.30 pm**

05 Loom lore

Charaka Womens' Co-operative Society, in association with Desi Trust, is organising an exhibition of natural dyes and handlooms. **Where: Samagata Foundation, Church Street; When: June 20 and 21, 11 am to 8 pm**

More the merrier at Bannerghatta zoo

Biological park to include various animal species, along with aquatic life to enhance appeal to wildlife enthusiasts, with plans also underway to make area fossil fuel-free zone by 2027

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a significant expansion move, Bannerghatta—renowned for its wild animals—is set to add a new dimension to its offerings with a massive aquarium in the pipeline. Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said that a detailed project report is currently being prepared for the proposed facility. With seven lakes within the park and a steady water supply from the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), there will be no dearth of water resources to support this new aquatic attraction.

Khandre announced that within the next few months, the Bannerghatta Biological Park will introduce 10 exotic wild animals, including chimpanzees, and jaguars. Speaking after virtually flagging off the nation's first electric safari bus from Vikasa Soudha, the minister revealed that the cheetahs and capuchin monkeys will be brought in from South America within the next 4-5 months. By next year, chimpanzees, jaguars, pumas (North American mountain lions), and other species are expected to arrive, enhancing the zoo's appeal to wildlife enthusiasts.

The safari zone at Bannerghatta, designed within a restricted enclosure, currently hosts tigers, leopards, lions, and bears. These are being viewed using diesel-powered vehicles. However, to reduce carbon emissions and move towards sustainable tourism, India's first trial run of an electric safari vehicle has been launched here.

The Bannerghatta Biological Park is famous amongst tourists for its wildlife

Authorities have been instructed to ensure that no unnatural wildlife deaths occur within the zoo or the biological park

The newly inaugurated electric bus is a 22-seater, powered by a 100 kW battery. With a 2-hour charge, it can travel up to 160 km, which equates to 8 trips within the safari. While only one such vehicle has begun operation, plans are in place to make the entire Bannerghatta park a fossil fuel-free zone by 2027, excluding utility vehicles like tractors. Minister Khandre noted that in May 2025, Bannerghatta Biological Park saw a record 2.85 lakh visitors, with the leopard safari emerging as a major attraction.

Probe ordered into zebra death

Minister Khandre addressed the recent deaths of a zebra and a nilgai at the park, calling it an unfortunate incident. He ordered a detailed investigation and directed the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) to submit a report, following which further action will be taken. Authorities have been instructed to ensure that no unnatural wildlife deaths occur within the zoo or the biological park in future.

KITU opposes 12-hour work shift proposal

The Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union (KITU) has called upon the entire working class to come in resistance against the Karnataka government's move to increase the working hours in IT/ITeS/BPO sector to 12 hours a day. The proposal to amend the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishment Act to facilitate 12-hour working days was presented in a meeting called by the Labour Department on June 18, with various stakeholders in the industry.

The Labour Secretary and other officials from the Department of Labour attended the meeting. Representing the employees in the IT/ITeS sector, KITU General Secretary Suhas Adiga, President VJK, and Secretary Lenil Babu attended the meeting. KITU representatives strongly raised their opposition to the proposed amendment, which they said poses an attack on the basic right of any worker to have a personal life.

The proposed amendment to the Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments Act attempts to normalise a 12-hour work day. The existing act only allows a maximum of 10 hours work per day including overtime. "The Karnataka government, in their hunger to please their corporate bosses, completely neglects the most fundamental right of any individual, the right to live," said Adiga.

The union alleged that the proposal for amendment shows that the Karnataka government is unwilling to recognise workers as human beings who require personal and social lives to survive. "Instead, it views them merely as machines to increase the profits of the corporates it serves," they said. — BMB

Deadline extended for new school registrations

The Department of School Education has extended the deadline until June 30, 2025, for institutions intending to start new private unaided pre-primary, primary, and high schools, or upgrade existing classes, to submit their applications online for registration under the 2025–26 academic year. Critics point out that such a late extension could potentially pave the way for unauthorised schools to seek regularisation after the academic session has begun. The department has clarified that institutions whose applications for the current academic year were previously rejected will now be allowed to reapply within this extended window.

The department has emphasised that this extension is the final opportunity for school managements to comply. There will be no further extension, as per the directive issued by the Commissioner for Public Instruction. The order also strictly warns that no management shall admit students into new or upgraded classes without obtaining approval from the competent authority. Schools operating without approval will be deemed unauthorised, and strict action will be initiated under the law, the commissioner cautioned. — BMB

E-khata drive to begin July 1

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Wednesday announced the launch of a citywide property record (e-khata) campaign starting July 1, aimed at streamlining land documentation across Bengaluru. As part of the initiative, a pilot project will be rolled out in the constituency of Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, where 25,000 property records have already been digitised. Shivakumar stated that e-khata documents would be delivered to citizens' doorsteps throughout the month, marking a significant push towards property regularisation and transparency. "Bengaluru has nearly 25 lakh properties, but only 5 lakh owners have uploaded the necessary documents so far. The campaign is focused on bringing the remaining 20 lakh properties under the e-khata system," the Deputy CM said. When questioned about the status of B khata regularisation, Shivakumar confirmed that the issue had been discussed at the state cabinet level. "We are reviewing the legal aspects. Once those are resolved, a formal announcement will be made," he added. — BMB

KEA chatbot sets record, answers over 5.15 lakh queries in 100 days

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has announced that its recently launched AI-powered 'KEA Chatbot' has answered a staggering 5.15 lakh queries within just 100 days, setting a new benchmark in public service delivery. Launched to assist candidates and parents seeking clarity on professional course admissions and recruitment exams, the chatbot has become a go-to digital helpdesk, offering instant, round-the-clock responses without the need for human intervention.

Initially responding only in English, the chatbot now also handles queries in Kannada, increasing its accessibility across the state. The KEA technical team updates the chatbot regularly, ensuring it remains up to date with admission schedules, eligibility norms, hall ticket downloads, exam timelines, and the latest notifications. Amongst the most frequently asked questions are those related to cut-off ranks from the previous year, with over 2.7 lakh queries alone on this topic. The chatbot's ability to deliver real-time, accurate information has made it especially useful during admission cycles and recruitment phases.

Complementing the chatbot, KEA has also launched a dedicated YouTube channel, 'KEA Vikasana', aimed at providing tutorial videos and informational content. The channel has garnered over 1 lakh views and boasts 48,000 subscribers, reflecting its growing popularity amongst aspirants. — BMB

CRIME FILES

Driver sentenced in crash

Bengaluru court has sentenced a 29-year-old goods vehicle driver to one year and three months of simple imprisonment, along with a fine of 9,000, for causing a fatal road accident in Whitefield last year.

The incident occurred on July 14, 2023, at around 1.20 pm near the Whitefield Traffic Police Border, opposite KR Enterprises. According to police, Kumar M, the driver of a goods vehicle, was travelling at high speed from Dommasandra towards Gunjur when he lost control of the vehicle. He crossed the road median and collided head-on with another goods vehicle driven by 27-year-old Panchakshari SK, who was heading in the opposite direction.

Panchakshari sustained severe head injuries and was rushed to Vaidehi Hospital, but succumbed to his injuries on the way. Whitefield Traffic Police registered a case under IPC Sections 279 (rash driving) and 304(A) (causing death by negligence). Following a detailed investigation, the final report was submitted to the court.

During the trial, the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) Court, Bangalore Rural District, found Kumar M guilty. In addition to the prison sentence and fine, the court ruled that in the event of failure to pay the fine, the accused would face an additional 2 months and 10 days of simple imprisonment. **–BMB**

Engineer nabbed in bribe case

The Karnataka Lokayukta trapped and arrested a BBMP Executive Engineer for demanding a bribe of 10 lakh on Monday. The accused, HV Yarappa Reddy, Executive Engineer of the CV Raman City Division, was caught red-handed by Lokayukta officials while accepting a bribe from a contractor, Shri Hemanth GM. The bribe was allegedly demanded to forward a bill related to the complainant's work.

Acting on the complaint, a team led by Deputy Superintendent of Police BL Srinivasa Murthy laid a trap and apprehended Reddy during the transaction. Officers HM Anand (PI), Govindaraju (PI), and other staff played a key role in the operation. The 10 lakh bribe amount has been seized and suspended for further legal action. The accused has been taken into custody and is being interrogated. A case has been registered under Section 7(a) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Further investigation is underway. **–BMB**

Inmates tortured in rehab centres

Officials from the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) carried out surprise inspections at five rehabilitation centres in and around Bengaluru on Wednesday, uncovering instances of illegal detention and inhuman treatment.

Led by ADGP (Additional Director General of Police) Devjyothi Ray and DySP (Deputy Superintendent of Police) Sudhir Hegde, the team visited centres including Mother Ammu Foundation, Belaku Social Service (Dasanapura), Unity Social Service (Makali), Sanjeevini Trust (Kempapura), and Goodlife Trust (Kachohalli).

During the raids, two inmates were found severely beaten, while two others were bedridden with untreated wounds and no access to medical care. Officials noted that families of the ailing were not informed. At another centre, families allegedly admitted at least two individuals without clinical mental health conditions, citing personal conflicts

Several inmates, mostly from Kerala, were found unable to communicate due to language barriers and were reportedly subjected to abuse. Inspections revealed that most were non-alcoholic individuals subjected to physical torture, with no doctors, counsellors, or basic facilities on-site.

Officials flagged a complete lack of medical aid and violation of rehab guidelines, blaming poor oversight by the district administration. SHRC has now directed local police to initiate legal action and sought a response from the district authorities, urging urgent steps to improve conditions. **–BMB**

Canter rams bike, two dead

Two private firm employees were killed after a speeding goods vehicle rammed into their two-wheeler on the outskirts of Chikkaballapura on Wednesday morning.

The victims, Krishnappa (30) and Prakash (28), were on their way to work when the canter, coming from the Chikkaballapura side, knocked down their bike. Both sustained severe head injuries and died on the spot.

Chikkaballapura police have registered a case of death due to negligence and rash driving, and are probing further. **–BMB**

Cleanup reveals old human skull and bones

A human skull and bones were recovered from a percolation pit inside Credence Lora Apartments in Begur on Monday.

The skeletal remains were found during a routine cleaning drive of the 16 percolation pits on the premises. Workers cleaning one of the pits in Mico Layout alerted the Resident Welfare Association (RWA) president, Skariya John, who then informed the Begur police.

Following John's complaint, police have registered a case of unnatural death and sent the skull and bones for forensic analysis to determine the age and identity of the deceased. According to the police, the remains appear to be several years old.

John stated in his complaint that the pits had stopped functioning, and the apartment had received multiple notices from civic authorities. The clean-up was initiated to make them operational again when the grim discovery was made. **–BMB**

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Sewage spot is raising a stink on Brigade Road

Shop owner writes to BWSSB about issue that has persisted for months, but so far no action has been taken; BBMP yet to give figure out way to fix eyesore

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has spent a considerable amount for the development of Brigade Road. Lot of people visit Brigade Road every day. The road is supposed to be clean and neat. However, waste water flowing onto Brigade Road has become a nuisance for the visitors, motorists and shop owners.

It is not that the BBMP authorities are not aware of the problem. They are aware but no measures are taken to fix this nauseating problem. While the BBMP is advising residents to keep surroundings neat and clean to control dengue spread but when it comes to fixing wastewater or sewage problems, the BBMP authorities become busy in shifting blame on others.

"Wastewater has been flowing onto the road for the last seven months. I have complained to the BBMP health officials and engineers. No one has bothered to fix this problem," said Bramhananda Reddy, president, Brigade Road Shops Owners' Association.

Demanding the authorities to fix the problem, Suhail Yusuf, secretary of Brigade Road Shops and Establishments Association, said that he has complained to the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) engineers to fix the problem but the latter did nothing till date. "Wastewater flowing onto the road has become a nuisance. It stinks and has the potential to become a health hazard. I want the authorities concerned to fix the problem immediately as it has become a nuisance for shop owners, visitors and motorists," said Suhail Yusuf.

Above: An eye sore on Brigade Road; Inset: The source (old sanitary pipe) of pollution on Brigade Road

According to the documents available with Bangalore Mirror, Sendhil Raj, the building owner (No. 180, Brigade Road) wrote a letter to the BBMP Executive Engineer (Road Infrastructure) on May 20, 2025 seeking permission to replace the sanitary pipe but the BBMP Executive Engineer has advised Senthil Raj (in a letter dated June 11) to contact the BWSSB to cut the road for replacing the sanitary pipe.

"Wastewater has been flowing onto the road for the last seven months. I have complained to the BBMP health officials and engineers. No one has bothered to fix this problem – Bramhananda Reddy, President, Brigade Road Shops Owners' Association

At the same time, the BBMP Executive Engineer (Road Infrastructure) wrote a letter to the BBMP Assistant Executive Engineer to visit the spot to estimate the length of the road to be dug up for replacing the sanitary pipe.

Meanwhile, Sendhil Raj, the owner of the building, said that he has sought permission from the BBMP to allow him to cut the footpath to replace the sanitary pipe but the authorities advised him to apply for permission on the BBMP's MARCS (Multi-Agency Road Cutting Coordination System) portal which is not working. "I am ready to replace the old sanitary pipe if the BBMP gives permission to cut the footpath," said Sendhil Raj.

Critics can cry hoarse, tunnel project is still on

| Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Despite criticism from various quarters, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is all set to invite global tenders within the next two weeks for the ambitious Twin Underground Tunnel Road project. Preparations are in full swing, and tender documents have already been readied. The project, approved by the State Cabinet, will be executed under the advanced Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model. It proposes the construction of a 10.745-kilometre twin-tube tunnel from Hebbal Junction, aimed at providing seamless north-south connectivity beneath the city. A BBMP official said, "To ensure greater participation from infrastructure firms and enhance project execution efficiency, BBMP has decided to divide the construction into two separate packages."

Twin packages for Twin Tunnels

Two packages have been proposed for the tunnel projects with the first package (North Corridor) covering the stretch from Esteem Mall Junction in Hebbal to Sheshadri Road, spanning 8.748 kilometres. The second package (South Corridor) will extend from Sheshadri Road to Silk Board Junction, also measuring 8.748 kilometres. The combined cost estimate for both packages stands at a whopping ₹17,780 crore, for which the state cabinet has already given its nod.

Motorbikes may be banned on tunnel roads

BBMP is also mulling a ban on two-wheelers inside the tunnels to ensure smoother traffic flow and enhanced safety. A final decision is yet to be made. As part of the enhanced BOT model, BBMP will bear 40% of the Viability Gap Funding (VGF). The entire project — including east-west and north-south underground corridors — is estimated to cost around ₹40,000 crore. For the tunnel corridor alone, BBMP is expected to bear ₹3,000 crore towards land acquisition and contribute 40% VGF. The total projected financial outlay is around ₹19,000 crore, for which the state government has already issued a guarantee. Based on this, BBMP has secured funding through HUDCO (Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd.) at an interest rate of 8.95%. The first package is estimated to cost ₹4,014.45 crore while the second package may cost ₹4,089.21 crore. The BBMP is planning to raise a loan of ₹ 9,303.66 crore for the package. Additionally, ₹800 crore will be earmarked for land acquisition, and ₹150 crore will go towards shifting existing infrastructure and utilities. "With global tenders on the anvil and a structured financial backing, Bengaluru is gearing up to take a giant step in urban infrastructure. If executed successfully, the underground tunnel could redefine the city's traffic movement and set a benchmark in urban mobility planning", added a BBMP official.

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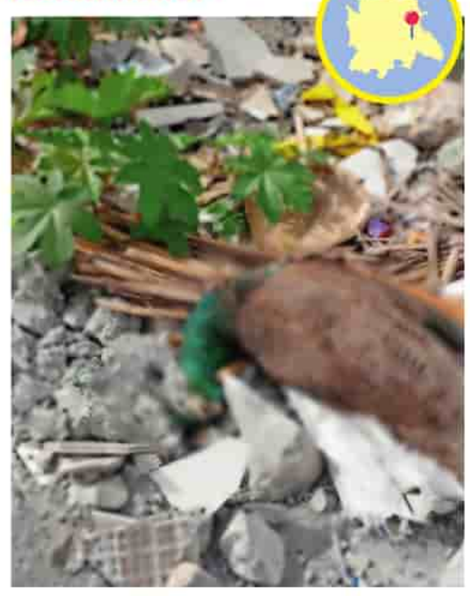
Garbage woes

Chikkagubbi Road

Residents of Assetz Soul and Soil on Chikkagubbi Road are distressed as garbage continues to pile up outside their apartments, sparking major hygiene concerns.

Disturbing view

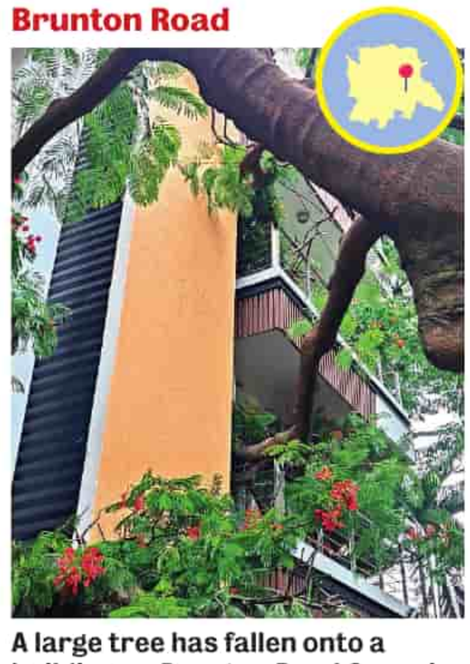
Katamnallur



A peacock carcass has been found placed beside the entrance of an apartment, close to Katamnallur bus stop and bridge, alarming residents and passersby.

Tree fall

Brunton Road



A large tree has fallen onto a building on Brunton Road Cross in Ward 111, creating serious safety risks and demanding immediate clearance.

Zoning confusion fuels disputes over PG legality

Sanjeevini Nagar residents oppose PG, citing BBMP rules against commercial use on narrow roads; with no clear zoning guidelines, enforcement remains inconsistent across Bengaluru

Sanjana CS
c-sanjana.s@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Residents of Sanjeevini Nagar have raised objections to a paying guest (PG) accommodation operating in their locality, citing zoning norms that restrict commercial activities in residential areas and on roads narrower than 40-feet. In a complaint submitted recently to the zonal commissioner and BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) commissioner, they urged action against the facility. While lakhs of people in Bengaluru depend on PG accommodations, the BBMP has no formal written guidelines specificall regulating their operation.

Recent inspections have revealed that out of 2,193 authorised PGs within BBMP's jurisdiction, 615 failed to comply with mandated standards. Additionally, 2,320 unauthorised PGs were identified, with 646 found in violation of basic health and safety norms. Consequently, BBMP has sealed 21 PGs, comprising one authorised and 20 unauthorised facilities for non-compliance, invoking Sections 305 and 308 of the BBMP Act, 2020.

A resident of Sanjeevini Nagar said, "If the rule prohibiting PGs on 40-feet roads is valid, and has even been reported in newspapers, then this private PG is clearly in violation. We had collectively raised objections during the early stages of construction. On May 6, we approached the zonal commissioner with our complaint."

As per the new regulations, every paying guest (PG) accommodation must provide at least 70 square feet of space per occupant, access to 135 litres of clean drinking water daily, and well-maintained toilet and bathroom facilities. CCTV cameras at all entry and exit points with a 30-day footage backup are now mandatory. PGs offering food services must obtain an FSSAI licence within three months of getting their business licence. Additionally, 24/7 security personnel, fire safety certification, emergency contact displays, first-aid kits, and proper waste management are compulsory.

BBMP officials have reiterated that PGs on roads narrower than 40 -feet violate zoning norms, as commercial activity is not allowed in such areas. However, many continue to operate, causing traffic and civic issues. To resolve this, the BBMP is considering amending zoning laws to permit PGs in residential areas, provided they meet hygiene and parking norms.

However, a BBMP official from the Yelahanka zone clarified, "If the road is only 30 feet wide, then it is a clear violation of the rules. But we do permit hostels in residential areas." When asked about the distinction between hostels and PG accommodations, the official admitted, "In Bengaluru, there's essentially no difference. Both serve the same purpose, providing stay and food, so when owners ask permission as a hostel, but while mentioning the name of the hostel, they will mention as paying guest."

When BM asked for official guidelines, the BBMP official admitted, "There is no written rule specifically stating that PGs on roads narrower than 40 feet violate zoning norms, even though commercial activity is generally prohibited in such areas." However, when the matter was raised with the BBMP Commissioner, he responded, "Let's look into it."

However, Pradeep Kumar PK, Advocate, at Pradeep Kumar PK & Associates law firm, said, "Many students pay high PG rents, and having PGs within residential areas not only offers reduced living expenses and a sense of safety. Labelling student housing as a commercial activity is unfair; students aren't running businesses; they're pursuing education."

HC notice on smart meters

The Karnataka High Court issued notices to the State government and other parties on Tuesday regarding three Public Interest Litigation petitions. These petitions challenge the authorities' decisions on mandatory smart meter installation for electricity consumers and the selection of a specific company to supply these meters at allegedly high costs.

Acting Chief Justice V Kameswar Rao and Justice CM Joshi, forming a division bench, issued the order. The petitioners include Karnataka Vidyuth Sene from Bengaluru, journalist Ramachandra R Anaveri, and Bengaluru residents Jayapala N and Muniswamy Gowda.

During proceedings, Bescom's legal representative clarified that smart meters are mandatory only for new installations and temporary connections, not existing consumers.

The petitioners' counsel argued that the smart meter scheme effectively becomes mandatory for existing customers in various situations, such as connection upgrades or house renovations requiring meter reinstallation. They contended that these requirements, except for temporary connections, contradict KERC's recommendations.

The court also directed notices to KERC and Davangere-based Rajashree Electricals Pvt Ltd, the company awarded the smart meter supply contract.

The next hearing is scheduled for August 19. **–BMB**

From Government Job to Empowering Underprivileged Students

K Subbaraju, a visionary social thinker, made a remarkable shift in his career by leaving his government job to start an educational institution aimed at providing quality education to students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Starting with just 14 students, Shri Sharada Vidyaniketan now caters to over 2,000 students, making a lasting impact on their academic journeys. Subbaraju's son, Suhas, has followed in his father's footsteps by leaving his private job and dedicating himself entirely to the growth and development of the school.

On behalf of K. Subbaraju, Founder of Shri Sharada Vidyaniketan (S.V.N), the school's Administrator Suhas received an award for his contribution to the educational sector

A Legacy of Education

In the 1990s, K. Subbaraju worked as a typist in the AYUSH Department. During this time, he realized the lack of good schools in the Nagawar region, which led to many children dropping out of education. To address this issue, he founded Shri Sharada Vidyaniketan (S.V.N) in 1991. His wife, K. Anita, managed the school during his work hours, and as the school's responsibilities grew, Subbaraju retired after 28 years of government service to focus on its development. The first batch of SSLC students in 1998 scored 100% results, a major milestone for the school. In 1995, a second branch was opened on Nagawar's main road, expanding the school's reach and offering both ICSE and State Board curricula from 1st to 10th grade.

Quality Education for All

S.V.N focuses on providing affordable, quality education to students from all walks of life. Special classes are organized every day for students who lag behind academically, without any additional charges. These classes ensure that students don't need to seek tuition elsewhere. The school operates extended hours for SSLC students, from 7:30 AM to 6:00 PM, providing personalized attention to each student.

Focus on Holistic Development

S.V.N is not just about academic success; it's about overall development. The school encourages students to participate in sports, yoga, and cultural activities, and national festivals are celebrated with great enthusiasm. Transportation facilities are also provided for the convenience of the students. Through his dedication and foresight, K. Subbaraju has truly made a lasting impact, and his dream of offering quality education to students from underprivileged backgrounds continues to shape the future of countless children.

Innovative Learning Methods

The school employs new-age learning methods like Robotics, Abacus, and mobile apps, simplifying the learning process for students. By using these innovative tools, S.V.N ensures that education is accessible and engaging for everyone. The school also conducts annual festivals, where top-performing SSLC students share tips with their peers, motivating them to achieve greater success.

Under my father's visionary leadership, we achieved 100% results in SSLC. His vision to provide quality education to underprivileged students has continued to inspire us. We are dedicated to carrying forward his legacy and expanding our institution to offer even more educational opportunities to future generations. With plans to introduce PU and degree colleges in the future, we aim to further empower our students and contribute to their success in life."

– Suhas,
Administrator, S.V.N School, Nagawara

SPECIALTIES

- CCTvs
- Yoga & Sports
- Celebration of National Festivals
- Transport facility

Monsoon takes a breather: No major warnings for next 5 days

As rains ease across Karnataka, KRS reservoir nears full capacity with strong inflows from Kodagu and Wayanad catchments

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

A flooded underpass in the city after a strong spell of rain earlier this month

Monsoon activity across Karnataka is showing signs of weakening from Wednesday, with the southwest monsoon (SWM) transitioning from its peak phase to a relatively subdued one. Weather experts expect conditions to moderate further by the afternoon, as there is currently no significant support from either the Bay of Bengal or the Arabian Sea to sustain strong monsoon activity.

Across the state, scattered light rainfall may occur in some areas, but the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has not issued any major warnings for the next five days. Authorities have urged residents to stay updated through official channels but reassured that no immediate threats are anticipated.

In Bengaluru, the day began with cloudy skies. According to a weather update from Namma Karnataka on X (formerly Twitter), wind speeds at the 850 hPa level have dropped to 32 knots and are likely to decrease further to around 25–28 knots, indicating a stabilising atmosphere. This suggests that the city is likely to experience partly cloudy skies with occasional drizzles or light showers over the coming days.

Dr N Puviarasan, Scientist and Head of IMD Bengaluru, said the city can expect generally cloudy weather with light to moderate rainfall, accompanied by gusty winds reaching speeds of 40–50 km/h. The maximum temperature is expected to hover around 28°C, while the minimum may remain near 21°C.

KRS reservoir water level crosses 110 feet

Meanwhile, in a welcome development for water security, the water level at the Krishnarajasagara (KRS) reservoir in Srirangapatna taluk of Mandya district has crossed the 110-foot mark. The rise has been attributed to consistent rainfall in the Kodagu and Wayanad regions key catchment areas for the Cauvery River. Notably, just 15 days ago, the reservoir witnessed an 11-foot surge within four days, pushing the water level past the 100-foot mark.

> **Bengaluru can expect generally cloudy weather with light to moderate rainfall, accompanied by gusty winds**
>
> –Dr N Puviarasan, IMD

This is the first time since 2018 that the dam has seen such a significant rise in inflow during June. Back then, the inflow had exceeded 23,000 cusecs. At present, the reservoir is receiving 16,936 cusecs of water, and officials expect the inflow to increase further over the coming days.

If this trend continues, the reservoir could reach its full capacity of 124.80 feet by the end of June, a feat last achieved in 2022. Last year, though the water level reached 124 feet by July 11, it only touched full capacity on July 25 and maintained that level for a record 154 days until December 25. After a gap of three years, hopes are once again high for an early and complete filling of the dam.

IPS suspensions: Govt readies report for Centre

The Karnataka government is preparing to submit a detailed report to the Union Home Ministry by June 19 regarding the controversial suspension of three IPS officers, including former Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda, in connection with the tragic Chinnaswamy Stadium stampede incident. The officers were suspended on grounds of dereliction of duty following the unfortunate incident.

Under All India Services rules, the state must submit a final report within 15 days of suspension, detailing the reasons and legal basis for the action. The Centre's decision on whether to endorse or reject the suspension is now highly anticipated in both political and bureaucratic circles.

The move has sparked widespread public criticism, with many questioning the lack of a preliminary inquiry before such disciplinary action. Adding to the uncertainty, Vikas Kumar, former IGP (Western Range), has approached the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), challenging the suspension. The matter is under hearing.

Sources say the state government is exploring a 'Plan B' if the CAT quashes the suspension or the Centre disapproves. Officials may be compelled to revoke the suspension to avoid further legal and political fallout. –BMB

Govt cracks down on insurance fraud

The Health Department has issued an order directing all government departments implementing health insurance schemes to share beneficiary data with the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST). The Additional Chief Secretary noted that several departments had launched schemes for their employees without coordinating with SAST, leading to duplicate and fraudulent claims, including multiple reimbursements for the same person. To curb this, Aadhaar and ration card numbers must now be used for verification. Additionally, all new government health insurance schemes must be reviewed and integrated by SAST before being rolled out. –BMB

Party-hoppers urged to leave Nandi Hills alone

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Environmentalist Dr AN Yellappa Reddy on Wednesday expressed concern over the rampant plastic pollution on Nandi Hills by youth from Bengaluru during the weekends.

Interacting with media persons, Dr Reddy said that thousands of young visitors' head to Nandi Hills every weekend, leaving behind large quantities of garbage, including empty liquor bottles and used condoms. He warned that such irresponsible behaviour is endangering the fragile ecosystem of the region.

"In the past five years, volunteers have cleared 500 tractor loads of plastic waste. Shockingly, one full tractor was loaded with used condoms," he said. "Despite this huge task, the state government has not paid the workers who were engaged by the volunteers. All cleanup work was carried out using Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds," he added.

Dr Reddy also questioned why youth come to Nandi Hills to drink and party when Bengaluru has bars and restaurants in every corner of the city. He reminded the public that Nandi Hills is more than just a tourist spot — it is a sacred space with two historic temples and the origin of five rivers. "The need of the hour is to protect the hills and rejuvenate the rivers. The government must immediately stop quarrying activities around the area," he said.

The Universal Human Rights Service Foundation (UHRSF) has vowed to intensify its ongoing agitation to protect Nandi Hills. The foundation announced that it will launch public awareness campaigns and protests, involving citizens, students, and children, to build pressure on the government.

Supporting the movement, noted filmmaker SV Rajendra Singh Babu pledged solidarity on behalf of the Kannada film industry. "I request (UHRSF) to organise a massive rally with school children, college students, and farmers in Bengaluru. The protest should be staged outside the Chief Minister's residence to demand that the ropeway project be cancelled," he said. He also urged the foundation to file a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court and to take the matter to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to protect the ecologically sensitive zone.

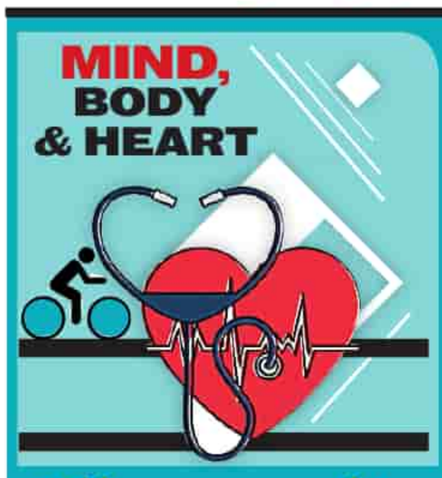
KAUSHIK JN

A poster campaign was launched on Wednesday to mobilise awareness about threats Nandi Hills face, in the city on Wednesday

Echoing this sentiment, veteran farmer leader Sunanda Jayaram, known for her protest against the proposed amusement park at the Krishna Raja Sagar reservoir near Mysuru, emphasised that public agitation is the most effective solution. "We have seen how strong opposition from citizens forced the government to roll back several Cabinet decisions. I urge the Nandi Gram Panchayat to pass a resolution against the ropeway and send it to all IAS officers, ministers, MLAs, and the Chief Minister," she said.

> **We demand the government cancel the ropeway project, hold public consultation; we will resist any activity threatening Nandi Hills' ecological integrity**
>
> –CD Kiran, President, UHRSF

Universal Human Rights Service Foundation (UHRSF) president CD Kiran confirmed that the foundation has already filed a PIL in the High Court. "We demand that the ropeway plan be scrapped. The state must also conduct public consultations. We will not allow any activity that threatens the environment of Nandi Hills," he stated.



All you need to know about...

PCOS diet

1. Choose Complex Carbs To Stabilise Blood Sugar
Women with PCOS are more likely to experience insulin resistance, which can lead to sugar crashes, fatigue, and increased cravings – especially during periods. Instead of processed carbs like white bread or sugary snacks, choose complex carbohydrates that break down slowly and keep your blood sugar levels stable.

2. Eat Anti-Inflammatory Foods To Ease Discomfort
Chronic inflammation is common in PCOS and can worsen period symptoms such as bloating, cramps, and fatigue. Incorporating anti-inflammatory foods into your diet during this time can bring relief. Focus on leafy greens like spinach and methi, turmeric (haldi), berries, tomatoes, and omega-3-rich foods like walnuts.

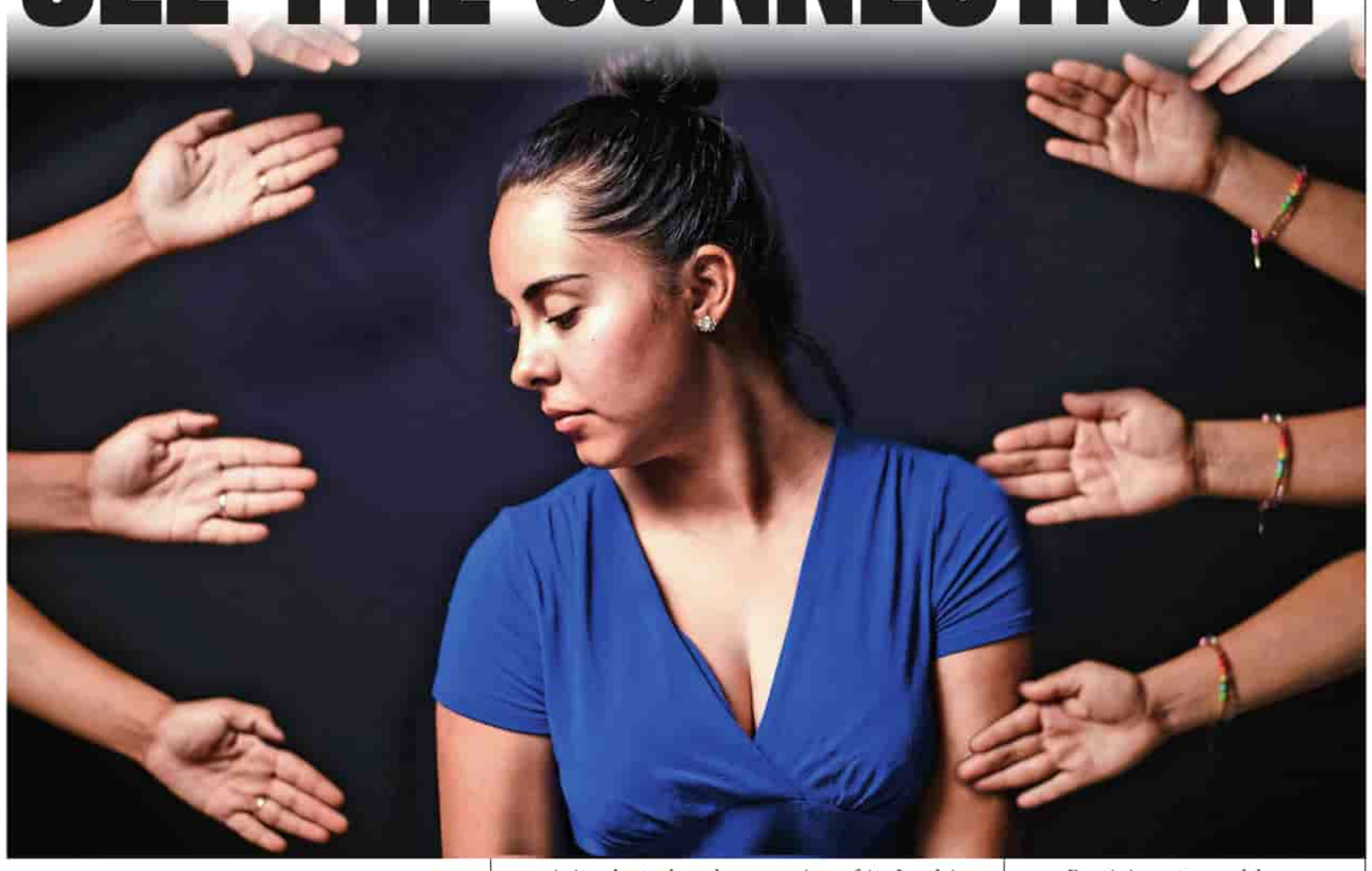
3. Prioritise Magnesium And Iron-Rich Foods
Menstrual bleeding can lead to temporary dips in iron and magnesium levels, making you feel tired, weak, or anxious. Women with PCOS may already be prone to fatigue, so it's important to support your body's mineral needs during your cycle. Include foods like pumpkin seeds, almonds, bananas, spinach, and dark chocolate for magnesium.

4. Add Healthy Fats For Hormone Balance
Healthy fats are essential for regulating hormones, managing cravings, and keeping you fuller for longer. This is especially helpful when you're dealing with mood swings or hunger spikes during your period.

5. Stay Hydrated And Watch Your Caffeine
Hydration plays a key role in managing bloating, fatigue, and even mood. Drink plenty of water, and include soothing herbal teas like chamomile or ginger to calm your system. Also, try to reduce caffeine intake – especially if you're already feeling anxious or crampy.

—Mugdha Joshi, Head of Nutrition at Veera Health, for Femina

SEE THE CONNECTION?



Your brain learns from rejection – here's how it becomes your compass for connection

Imagine finding out your friends hosted a dinner party and didn't invite you, or that you were passed over for a job you were excited about. These moments hurt, and people often describe rejection in the language of physical pain.

While rejection can be emotionally painful, it can also teach us something.

I am a social psychology researcher, and research my colleagues and I have conducted shows that rejection can serve as a learning signal – shaping how people navigate relationships and decide whom to attempt to connect with in the future.

What's known about social rejection

Researchers have long recognised the emotional toll of social rejection. Studies show that experiences of rejection trigger distress, increase levels of the stress hormone cortisol, reduce sense of belonging and can even lead to increased aggression. In the long run, chronic feelings of rejection can harm mental and physical health.

But why does being excluded hurt so much? From an evolutionary standpoint, our brains likely evolved to treat social rejection as a threat. For our ancestors, losing social bonds meant losing access to protection, resources, and cooperation – making social connection and belonging a fundamental human need. In other words, rejection hurts to alert you that your welfare is in danger.

Early neuroscience studies seemed to support this idea. When people were left out of a simple virtual ball-tossing game, their brain activity mirrored the response to physical pain, showing activation of a brain region called the anterior cingulate cortex.

Later studies suggested a different explanation: Perhaps it wasn't just the pain of rejection that triggered this brain activity, but also the surprise of it. In this view, the brain responded differently to negative feedback and unexpected feedback. What might your brain do with this unexpected feedback?

Social lives aren't defined by isolated moments of rejection. You learn through interactions: You get to know people, read their intentions, revise your assumptions and try to make sense of mixed signals. People might turn you down for all sorts of reasons – some understandable, others harder to accept. You then reflect on what these experiences mean, adjust your behavior, and if you cross paths with them again, you get another chance to decide how you want to engage.

This is where our research takes a next step: We examine how people learn from social rejection and acceptance over time and how they use these past experiences to build future connections, deciding on whom to invest in building relationships with and whom to let go.

Rejection as an experience to learn from

My colleagues and I designed a dynamic experiment that mimics the structure of real social decisions. Using behavioral tests, brain imaging and computational modeling, we studied how people learn from repeated social feedback.

Our college-aged participants played a multi-round economic game while undergoing brain scans. First, they created personal profiles for themselves answering questions about times they were honest and trustworthy, and were told that other players would read these profiles to get to know them better. These other players, who assumed the role of "Deciders," would then rank participants – "Responders" – in the order they wanted to play with them.

In each round, Responders were either accepted or rejected by Deciders. This depended on two things: how highly they had been ranked and how many slots the computer had allowed for that round. In reality, Responders weren't paired with real people; the Deciders' rankings and number of slots were generated by the computer.

Participants could receive a high rank but still get rejected if there were not enough slots. That scenario is like not receiving an invitation to a wedding due to a very tight budget – the outcome is disappointing but understandable because you know you were excluded due to circumstances and that your friend still values you. Or participants could receive a poor rank but still get accepted if there were a lot of slots. This would be similar to being picked last for a team – still getting a chance to play despite knowing you were not as desired.

This unique design allowed us to tease apart how people learn from two types of feedback. When you're accepted, your brain notes that feeling included results in a rewarding experience. Your brain also calculates relational value, which indicates how much you think others value you. In the case of our study, relational value was indicated by how highly Responders were ranked by the Decider.

If accepted by a Decider, Responders would receive a pot of money that would triple. Responders would then get to decide whether to give half of the tripled amount back to the Decider or keep all to themselves, putting trust and reciprocity to test. We found that Responders were more likely to choose Deciders who had accepted them and rated them highly, learning from both kinds of feedback. With neuroimaging, we identified that these learning mechanisms were distinctly tracked by different regions in the brain.

Brain areas that researchers previously found to be active in social rejection studies, like the anterior cingulate cortex, were also activated when participants received feedback about how much they were valued. Interestingly, this activity didn't just reflect pain or surprise; it reflected a recalibration of their perceived social worth, as this brain activity occurred when participants changed their beliefs about how others rank them.

At the same time, experiences of acceptance were linked with activity in the ventral striatum – a region well known for processing financial and social rewards, such as money, praise or smiles.

Together, these findings suggest that the brain is doing more than reacting to rejection or reward – it's in fact learning from it. Each social interaction helps people update internal models of who values them and who doesn't, shaping future decisions about whom to trust, approach or avoid.

(Begüm Babür, USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, The Conversation)

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Dated: 17.06.2025 **General Manager (HRM)**

Below 60% pass percentage is bad news

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As per the order, any subject teacher in an aided school who has secured less than 60% pass results in their subject will have their annual salary increment withheld. If this level of underperformance continues for three consecutive years, the teacher's salary grant will be completely stopped. Furthermore, schools that consistently fail to produce results will also face consequences—if fewer than 50 students pass the SSLC exam for five consecutive years, the entire salary grant allocated to that institution will be withdrawn.

The government has also clarified that when aided teacher positions fall vacant and new appointments are made, the appointees must ensure a minimum of 60% pass rate.

To ensure compliance, field education officers have been directed to review SSLC results each academic year and implement these measures. They are also required to submit follow-up reports to the respective divisional commissioners. All district-level officials have been asked to verify the First Preparatory Exam results of 2024–25, take disciplinary action where necessary, and submit detailed compliance reports by June 10, 2025.

School to face heat

The Commissioner for Public Instruction has also issued notices to schools that have recorded pass percentages below 60%.

The authorities observed that the school's poor academic performance indicates a failure to guide teachers and students effectively, reflecting negligence in duty.

A notice has been issued under Rule 12 of the Karnataka Civil Services (Classification, Control, and Appeal) Rules, 1957, seeking a written explanation within seven days. If no response is received, disciplinary action will be initiated.

Risky crossing ahead

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

at the junction, pedestrian safety continues to be neglected. He urged the authorities to conduct a safety audit, review surveillance footage, and consider long-term measures such as a pedestrian skywalk.

Police say staff are present

When contacted, the Assistant Commissioner of Police (West Division) told BM that police presence has been ensured at the junction during peak hours. "Three traffic personnel have been deployed to assist pedestrians, especially students. We are managing traffic manually here, but we have visited the spot and ensured pedestrian safety is not being compromised," the officer told BM.

However, parents and students say police assistance is irregular and inconsistent, especially during the morning rush and school dispersal times.

Experts call for pelican signals

Traffic experts argue that installing pelican signals that are pedestrian light-controlled crossings activated by a push button, would be a crucial upgrade. Unlike traditional signals, pelican crossings allow pedestrians to press a button to request a safe crossing interval. Once triggered, traffic lights turn red, ensuring vehicles stop and allowing a safe window for foot traffic.

"Given the heavy student movement in this area, a pelican signal would make crossing far more predictable and safer," said a traffic expert. "Manual signal management can lead to delays and confusion. Automated pedestrian assistance is not just efficient, it's essential."

Call for skywalk rejected

In the long term, the Director of the PU College, has pushed for a pedestrian skywalk at the junction. However, these requests were reportedly turned down. Parents told BM that in the absence of advanced signalling or sufficient police deployment, a skywalk could offer uninterrupted and safe passage for students.

As the debate continues, students remain exposed to daily risks, navigating chaotic traffic at one of the city's busiest school corridors, where crossing the road has become a gamble with safety.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, KAVITHA MURALI W/o. Murali Madhavan Resident at No. 159, 1st Flr, 2nd D Cross, AGB Layout 2nd Stage, Mahalakshmipuram, Bengaluru-560086 have changed my name to KAVITHA RAMURTHY vide affidavit dated: 18.06.2025 Sworn before notary: Raghunath Rao, Bengaluru

I, M. T. Uthappa, S/o M. M. Thimmaiah, aged 52, residing at Chandrodaya #41, 5th Cross, Venkatapura New Extn, Koramangala, Bangalore – 560034, confirm that "Uthappa M. T." and "M. T. Uthappa" refer to the same person — myself — as per my Aadhar and official records. Vide affidavit dated 17/06/2025 sworn before notary. A S Narayana Reddy Bengaluru

WE Lohith Kumar S and Sangeetha S R/at 131, Siddapura, Ramagondana Halli Bangalore North, Bangalore -560066 herby declare that our minor son's name Ajariya S L(Old Name) changed as Dhruv Arya S L(New Name) vide affidavit dtd 18/06/2025 before notary S Subhashini Bangalore

I, VIJAY KUMAR SANGAYYA S/O SANGAYYA VEERABHADRAYYA aged about 30 years R/At No.189, 2nd Main Road, Pai Layout, Dooravani Nagar Post, B'luru-560016 have changed my name to VIJAY KUMAR SANGAYYA HIREMATH vide affidavit dtd:17/06/2025 sworn before notary Uday Kumar K,B'luru.

I, ASHWINI K R, R/at No. 2, Sri Venkateshwara Nilaya Pari war passion apartment exit road, Bannerghatta main road, Sri Mahaganapathi Layout, Doddakammanahalli, Bengaluru-560083 have changed my name to ASHWINI MOHAN, vide affidavit dt: 09.06.2025 before notary K.V Mani, B.lore.

I, NIRANJAN MUKKANNA Resident At No. 32, 4th Cross, 2nd Main Bovipalya Mahalashmipuram, Bengaluru- 560086 have changed my name to NIRANJAN vide affidavit dated: 09.05.2025 Sworn before notary: D Sarala Kumari, Bengaluru

I, ANJELA LALIT Resident At Flat No-1 A, Srinivasa Nilaya, 3rd Main, Sandyagappa Layout, Mariyanna Palya, Bengaluru- 560024 have changed my name to ANJELA ANN LALIT vide affidavit dated: 17.06.2025 Sworn before notary: D Sarala Kumari, Bengaluru

I Milind Woodi Madhusudan, S/o Madhusudan.W.K Residing At, Flat No 206, Skyline Amogha Apartment, 7th Cross, 3rd Lane, Teahers Colony, 1st Stage, kumarswamy Layout, Bengaluru 560078, have changed my name to Milind for all purposes.

I, Gaura Prashant Vyas Pushkarna R/o E-605, Purva fountain square, Marathahalli, Bengaluru 560037 have changed my name to Gaura Vyas Pushkarna Affidavit Dt.17/06 /2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Ajay Kumar R/o B.Seehalli, T.Narasipura Tq, Mysuru Dist 571101 present camp Bengaluru have changed my name to Ajay Kumar Chikkanna (Ajay Kumar C) Affidavit Dt.18/06 /2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Kushi Pemmaiah Mepadanda D/o Pemmaiah Mepadanda Ganapathy R/o RBD Stillwaters Apts. B Wing, R6, Silver County Rd,Harlur,HSR Layout, B'luru 560102 have changed my name to Kushi Pemmaiah.

I Kum.sangita Sharma D/O, Amar Chand Sharma R/o 41 3rd Cross Vallabhanagar Vasanthapura Main Road Konankunte Cross have changed my name to Sangeetha Sharma.

I, Krishna Veni, w/o M N Prasad, R/o No 81/C 5th Main 18th Cross , Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560055 have changed my name to Krishna Veni Prasad for all purposes.

I, Zeba Nasreen Ansari W/o Shaik Mohamed M R/o #65,2nd Floor, 2nd Cross RU Road Chikka Maualli B'lore-560004 have changed my name to Zeba Nasreen.

I RamaKishan S R/o 1766 5th Cross, Anjani Extension Chintamani-563125 have changed my name to Ram Kishan S

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Ryan Reynolds turns narrator — Hollywood star Ryan Reynolds has turned narrator for docu-series 'Underdogs'. As per a press note, the National Geographic docu-series "celebrates the unique behaviors of the animals"

All complaints resolved

Kajol speaks more about her relationship with Ajay

Kajol and Ajay Devgn serve couple goals and how! They have been married to each other for 26 years now and have two children - Nysa and Yug. Kajol is gearing up for the release of her next film 'Maa' now and it is produced by Ajay. In a recent interview, she opened up on her relationship with Ajay and revealed that she has no complaints now with Ajay as those are all resolved in the past.

When asked about the pros and cons of being with an actor like Ajay who is so busy with his work, Kajol said in an interview with Instant Bollywood, "Both are good and bad. Sometimes I feel good that he has an outdoor shoot for 40 days but sometimes I feel he should be home."

She added that they understand each other's priorities after being together for so long. The 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' actress added, "We have been together for so many years and it's a life that we have lived together. So it had all become a part of the habit, I think we have gotten used to it. He is very passionate and he wouldn't be what he is today if he could not make films."

When asked if she has any complaints with him, Kajol said, "I don't have any complaints. Whatever complaints I had, we have resolved them and they are way in the past. Kajol and Ajay have shared screen space in many movies like 'Hulchul', 'Ishq', 'Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha' among others. —ETimes

How to ignore body-shamers

Welsh actress Banita Sandhu, who is known for her roles in 'October' and 'Sardar Udham', opened up about body shaming and revealed how she was once criticised for being too skinny.

In a conversation with ANI, she recalled the incident of being body-shamed and how it affected her, "I remember getting body shamed when I did a South Indian movie. I remember people calling me ugly because I looked like a twig. And how could the co-star be attracted to me in the movie because I was so skinny. That was the first time I think I experienced body shaming. But at the same time, it was this weird, it almost felt like a simulation because it was happening online. I don't know how to explain it. And it was from a culture that was something I hadn't grown up in."

Banita continued, "So I didn't feel as closely offended or criticised by it. I was like, oh, okay, the beauty standard in this region is different to what I look like. And that's just how I took it. I didn't take it to heart. Like, oh, my God, I need to gain so much weight now. And I'm because I'm naturally very skinny, you can literally ask any producer I've worked with, like I eat the most on set." However, she suggested facing such criticisms without getting affected by them, "So it wasn't something like it was the first time I experienced something like that. But also, I think with anything online, you just can't take it seriously... you really can't.". —ANI

Some magic

It is no secret that Sara Ali Khan keeps on top of her fitness game. Whether it is taking care of what she eats or hitting the gym on a regular basis, she has emerged as a fitness inspiration for many.

Shelling out some more fitness goals, the 'Atrangi Re' actress took to the stories section of her recent workout session, where she was seen doing some high-intensity exercises.

From strengthening her core to working on her legs, Sara's workout seemed to be wholesome. Urging everyone to try working out on a regular basis, Sara captioned the video, "Some Jaadu you have to do apne aap.

Workout the binge and the paap. So daily workout one must try... Taaki aapko bhi mann muskuraye. (sic)"

For the unversed, Sara lost a massive amount of weight before making her B-town debut with "Kedarnath" opposite the late Sushanth Singh Rajput. Additionally, she is often papped stepping out of the gym after a rigorous session. Sara also blesses our feed with motivational updates time to time.

Shifting our focus on her professional commitments, Sara will next be a part of Anurag Basu's much-anticipated drama "Metro...In Dino". —IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Suspense thriller

Prabhakar, an assistant director, makes debut as an independent director in Sandalwood with Usiru, a suspense thriller. Tilak Shekar and Priya Hegde are the lead pair in the movie that is being bankrolled by Lakshmi Harish of RSP Group of Companies under the RSP Productions banner.

The movie's teaser was unveiled by actor Srinagar Kitty and director Ravi R Garani at SRV Preview Theatre on Tuesday.

Prabhakar said, "I have been waiting for 12 years to get an opportunity to direct a film. Usiru has all the elements, including sentiments and action, to entertain the audiences. All the characters in the movie have unique identities and importance. The movie is about how a police officer rescues his wife from an anti-social element," the director said.

He said the shooting of the movie was held in Bengaluru, Madikeri, Chikmagalur, and Mudigere.

Pen Drive on July 4

The movie Pen Drive's audio was unveiled by Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce president Narasimhalu. Dr V Nagendra Prasad, apart from writing lyrics, has scored music for the movie. N Hanumantha Raju and Lion S Venkatesh have bankrolled the movie under the RH Enterprises banner while Sebastian David has directed the movie.

Sebastian David thanked producer Lion Venkatesh for coming forward to bankroll the movie. "Later, producer Hanumantha Raju joined hands with Lion Venkatesh for this movie. I thank the cast and crew of the movie for their cooperation and hard work during the shooting. My movies are known for conveying a message to society. Pen Drive too has a message to society," said Sebastian David.

The director said that he was under pressure when the movie's title was registered with the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce. "Unknown people threatened me for registering the title – Pen Drive. Some people asked me why I selected the title. Now, we have decided to release the movie on July 4 across the state," he said. Tanisha Kuppanda plays a police officer in the movie.

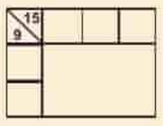
Chai-Time

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

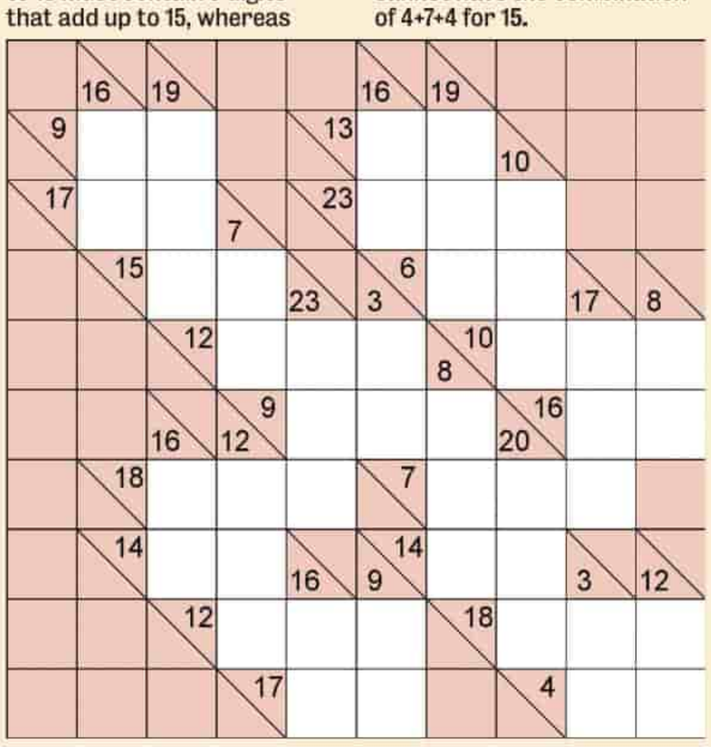
Find the series in which 183 is divided into three parts such that the sum of the first and third is 2 1/20 times the second.

Kakuro

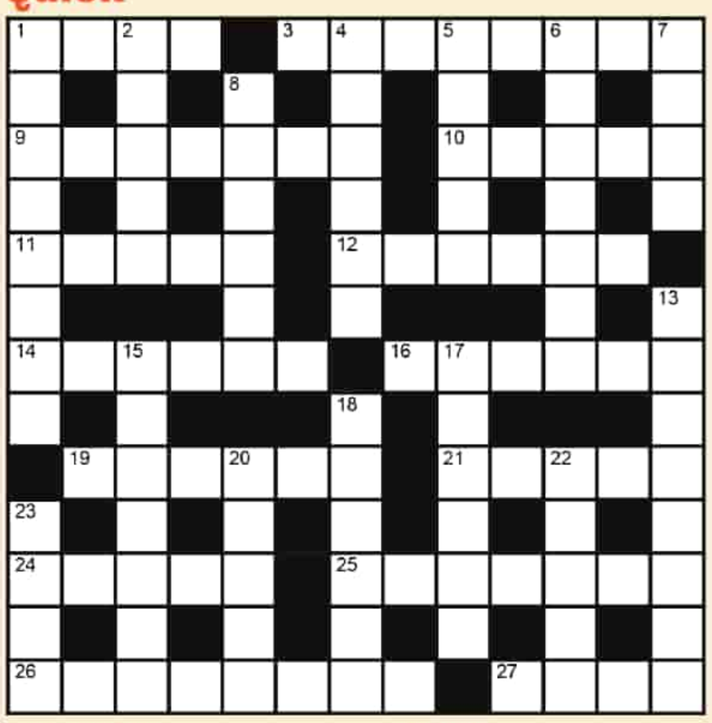
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 In a proper way (4)
3 National park between Mysore and Ooty (8)
9 Small flute (7)
10 Energetic gusto (5)
11 In these times (5)
12 Evaluate (6)
14 Least risky (6)
16 Distress signal (3-3)
19 The Creator in Hindu mythology (6)
21 Scour (5)
24 Legal defence (5)
25 Lyrical or melodious (7)
26 Convince (8)
27 ___-a-brac: things of little value (4)

DOWN

1 Stand in for (8)
2 Tied (5)
4 Declaration or confession (6)
5 Tennis trophy __ Cup (5)
6 Examined in detail (7)
7 Great Barrier is one (4)
8 Small growths of mucous membrane (6)
13 Figurative (8)
15 Horseshoer (7)
17 Help (6)
18 ___ off : imposed fraudulently on, in a way? (6)
20 Japanese poem (5)
22 Happen again (5)
23 Slightly wet (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: H EQUALS T

HDU HXZHD BG HDU MBYWUGH HDBYQ AU NKY QBRU JPTMG BY HDU UYW.

Linemaro

If you were a tropical fruit, you would be fine-apple

Mindchow

If there is a book that you want to read, but hasn't been written yet, you must write it

Joke of the day

Doctor: Did you take those pills I gave you to improve your memory?
Patient: What pills?

Loop

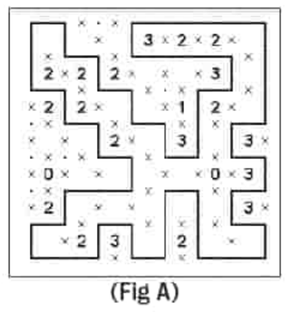
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

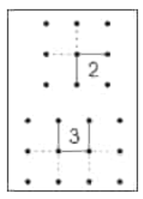
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

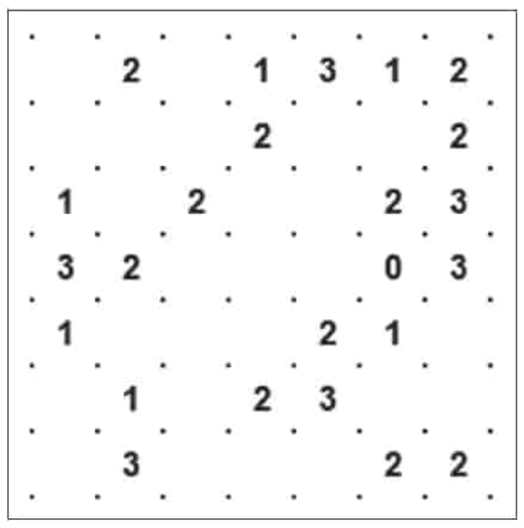
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



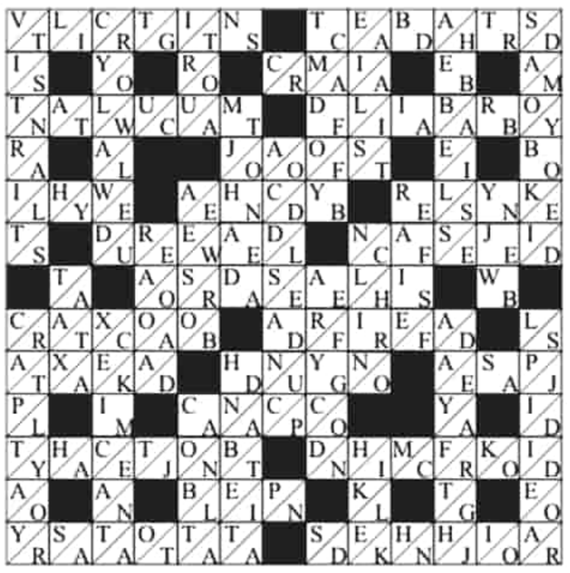
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



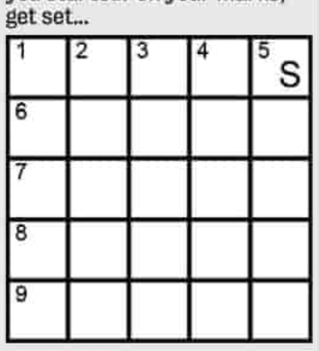
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Pasch; 6 Lo the; 7 Try Ne; 8 Eaten; 9 Apars

DOWN

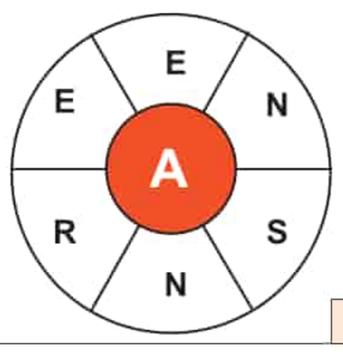
1 He CEP; 2 He nan; 3 Tra-la; 4 Aport; 5 St yes

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

A	G	C	J	B	H	E	I
C	B	D	C	G	A	B	D
F	B	A	A	C	D	G	E
D	E	G	D	C	B	A	C
B	D	E	C	F	G	A	D
D	A	B	B	C	C	J	?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

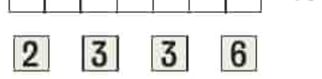
		7	8	6	9	4		
		9				7		
	3			4			2	
	8		3	5	2		4	
	4						3	
	1		7	9	4		6	
	7			8			5	
		8				1		
		2	1	7	3	8		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy



= 10

2 3 3 6

Medium

= 34

2 5 8 8

Hard

= 18

3 7 8 6

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

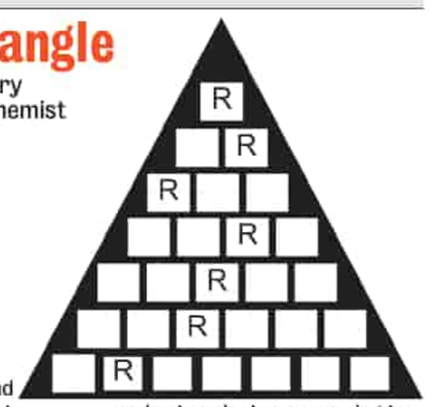
Differences: 1. Foot is different. 2. Window is moved. 3. Fence is straight on top. 4. Collar is different. 5. Woman is thinner. 6. Downspout is missing.

Riddler

Can you decipher this phrase? R.P.I.

Alpha triangle

1 Radius in geometry
2 Iridium for the chemist
3 Disencumbered
4 Horrible
5 Worn out
6 Straight
7 Duped



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

I FEEL SILLY WALKING WITH JUST A HEAD AND FEET!
WHAT WILL MY FRIENDS THINK ?
OLIVE, DEAR.. YOUR SAILOR LOOKS SO MUCH BETTER!
HE'S SKINNY... LIKE A FASHION MODEL!
HAS HE BEEN EATING YOUR COOKING ?
TEE-HEE!
9-21
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

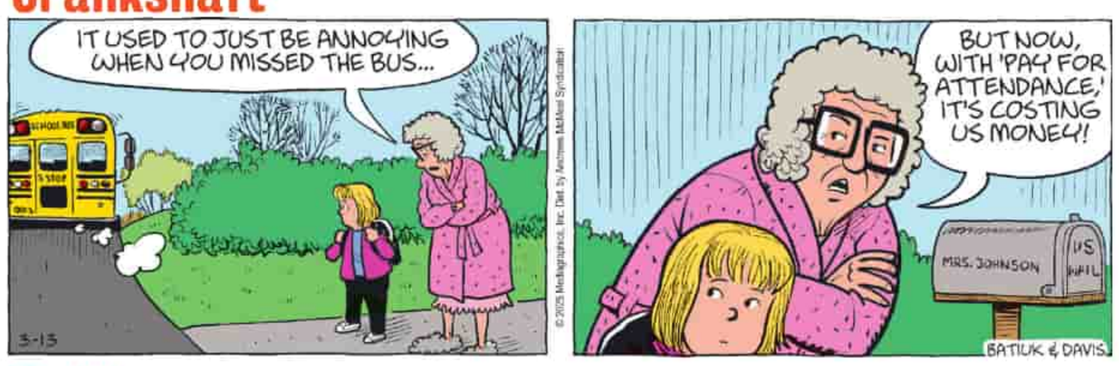
BIZARRO.COM
Wayno® & 7 PIRATE 3-13-25
Dist. by King Features
Can you tell me, Iggy, why you want to be a dog?
POP PSYCHOLOGY
© 2025 Bizarro Syndicate

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

LEE, DO YOU WANNA BE MY TRAINING GIRLFRIEND?
HEY, LEE! WANNA BE GIRLFRIENDS? LIKE, IN TRAINING?
LEE! HEY! I WANTED TO ASK YOU... DO YOU W--
KAT, I'M MOVING AWAY.
FREE SALE
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@DCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


IT USED TO JUST BE ANNOYING WHEN YOU MISSED THE BUS...
BUT NOW, WITH 'PAY FOR ATTENDANCE,' IT'S COSTING US MONEY!
MRS. JOHNSON
3-13
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

I SHTART EVERY DAY WITH CURIOSITY!
HOW WILL IT BEGIN? WHAT WILL I DO? WHERE WILL I GO? WHY AM I HERE?
WHEN'S MY NEXT NAP?
mutts.com
3-13

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, mood swings may affect your emotional balance. You might feel low, and your health could impact your routine activities. Avoid rash driving and adventurous outings. Be cautious with spending—impulse purchases on unnecessary items may harm your financial stability.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may feel disconnected from your responsibilities today. There's a tendency to overspend on unnecessary items, which could create negative energy in your home or workplace. Stay vigilant of hidden rivals—there may be attempts at deception. Always read documents carefully before signing.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, blessings from elders bring happiness. Past investments may begin to yield profits, and previous losses could turn into gains. Your savings may strengthen your financial standing. You might also plan for your children's future. Health issues related to the throat, teeth, ears, or nose may improve.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
With elders' blessings, your patience and focus at work will be strong today. Your parents' health is improving, and you're likely to spend quality time with them. You may connect with an influential person who supports your career. Romantic moments will bring peace and harmony to your domestic life.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Spiritual energy surrounds you today. You may feel inclined to help those in need or donate to charity or religious causes. Your good deeds and intentions may help you succeed in challenging projects. You might feel guided by divine energy and show interest in occult or mystical subjects. Students may enjoy deep learning.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you might feel mentally low due to hidden fears or anxiety. Trust issues may arise. To overcome this phase, meditation and prayer are recommended. These practices will help calm your mind. By evening, with elders' support, you'll likely feel more balanced and in control.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You're likely to feel joyful and spread positivity around. Domestic harmony prevails, and romantic time with your partner may bring happiness. Family members might support your career decisions. New business ventures or partnerships may be on the horizon.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
The Moon's positive influence brings happiness and patience. You'll perform well at work, possibly receiving recognition or rewards. Family health issues may ease. Job seekers could find roles aligned with their skills. Love relationships may deepen, and dating will be enjoyable.

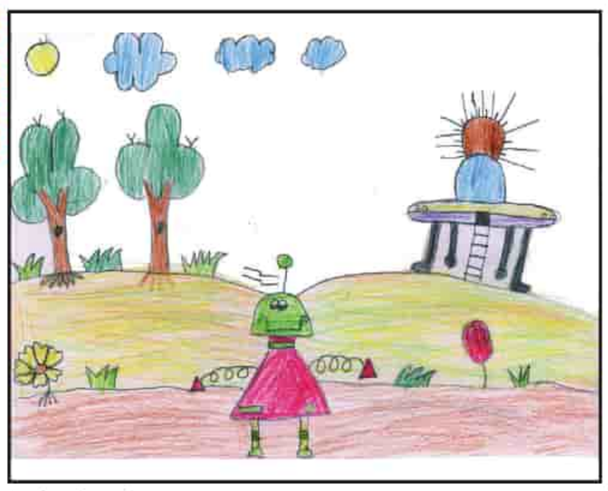
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today may bring a mix of emotions. Avoid expecting too much from others to prevent disappointment. Self-reflection and analysis will help you better understand yourself. This mental "cleansing" process will build your confidence and readiness to face upcoming challenges.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You may consider relocating or changing your environment, but it's best to postpone such decisions for now. Avoid investing in business today. By evening, things will improve. Sound advice from an elder will help you manage the situation effectively.

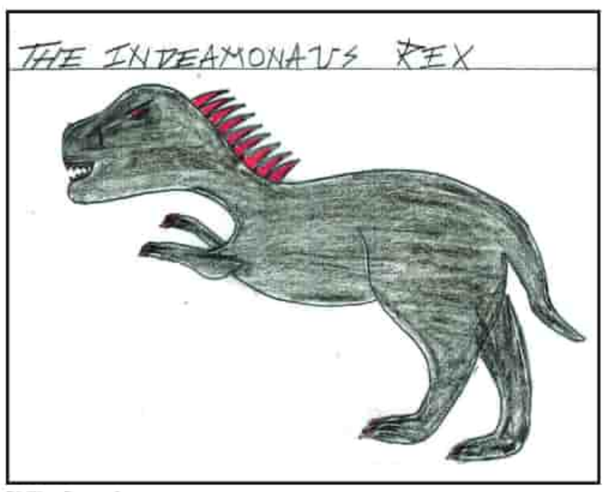
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A short business trip may be on the agenda, bringing success and possibly recognition. Your reputation is likely to improve, and you may hear good news from siblings. Job seekers aiming for managerial roles may succeed. Singles might enter a committed relationship or engagement.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
It's a fortunate day, as positive planet blesses you with wisdom and clarity. You'll be able to navigate difficult situations effectively and offer valuable advice to friends or family—enhancing your reputation. However, be mindful of minor conflicts with your spouse that could strain domestic harmony.

KIDZONE



Ranjan, Bengaluru



Philip, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
183 = a + b + c
a+c = b x 41/20
183 = (61/20)b
60 = b
123 = a + c
Since 3b<183, a & c <b
a = 62, c = 61, b = 6

BULL'S EYE
earn, ease, ENSNARE, erase, near, sane, saner, sear, snare

STRIKE OUT

V	I	R	G	I	N	■	T	A	B	A	R	D	■	■
I	■	O	■	R	A	I	■	B	■	A	■	■	■	■
T	A	L	C	U	M	■	F	L	A	B	B	Y	■	■
A	■	L	■	O	A	F	S	■	E	■	B	■	■	■
L	Y	E	■	A	N	D	Y	■	E	S	N	E	■	■
S	■	D	R	E	A	D	■	C	A	S	E	D	■	■
■	T	■	O	R	D	E	A	L	S	■	W	■	■	■
C	A	C	A	O	■	D	R	I	E	D	■	S	■	■
A	X	E	D	■	H	U	G	O	■	E	S	P	■	■
P	M	■	C	A	P	O	■	A	■	■	A	I	■	■
T	H	E	J	O	B	■	N	I	M	R	O	D	■	■
O	■	N	■	L	I	P	■	K	■	T	■	E	■	■
R	A	T	T	A	T	■	S	E	N	H	O	R	■	■

FAST FIVE

C	H	A	P	S
H	E	L	O	T
E	N	A	T	E
E	N	T	R	Y
P	A	R	A	S

QUOTE UNCODE
The truth is the kindest thing we can give folks in the end.

QUICK

P	E	R	S	U	A	D	E	■	B	R	I	C	■	■
M	■	E	■	K	■	E	■	T	■	U	■	I	■	■
A	L	I	B	I	M	U	S	I	C	A	L	■	■	■
D	■	R	■	A	■	L	■	I	■	E	■	O	■	■
■	B	R	A	H	M	A	■	S	C	R	U	B	■	■
E	■	A	■	■	■	P	■	S	■	■	■	M	■	■
S	A	F	E	S	T	■	M	A	Y	D	A	Y	■	■
I	■	■	■	P	■	L	■	E	■	■	■	S	■	■
T	O	D	A	Y	■	A	S	S	E	S	S	■	■	■
U	■	E	■	L	■	W	■	I	■	U	■	F	■	■
P	I	C	C	O	L	O	■	V	E	R	V	E	■	■
E	■	A	■	P	■	V	■	A	■	E	■	E	■	■
D	U	L	Y	■	B	A	N	D	I	P	U	R	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE
B. Start on the top left, and work through the diagram in columns, from left to right. The sum of the numerical values of the letters in each column starts at 20, then increases by 1 as you move one column to the right.
A grave error

SUDOKU

5	2	7	8	6	9	4	1	3
4	6	9	2	3	1	7	8	5
8	3	1	5	4	7	6	2	9
7	8	6	3	5	2	9	4	1
9	4	5	6	1	8	2	3	7
2	1	3	7	9	4	5	6	8
1	7	4	9	8	6	3	5	2
3	9	8	4	2	5	1	7	6
6	5	2	1	7	3	8	9	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Ir, Rid, Dire, Tired, Direct, Tricked.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 + 3 − 2 + 3 = 10
Medium
5 x 8 + 2 − 8 = 34
Hard
7 + 6 − 3 + 8 = 18

LOOP

KAKURO

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5-star GNCAP rating for Kushaq & Slavia

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Service: Bengaluru: (Hennur Road): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Sreerampura Okhlipuram): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Mysore Road): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Mahadevpura): Raja Ganesh Motors: 96200 18618; (Off Hosur Road): TAFE Access: 95919 98570; **Hubballi:** Raja Motors Corp.: 0836-2278555 / 80506 32563; **Davangere:** Raja Motors Corporation: 83622 78555; **Mangalore:** TAFE Access: 93848 22472; **Mysore:** Palace ŠKODA: 97422 08080; **Tumkur:** PPS Motors: 88007 76947; **Bellary:** PPS Motors: 88007 76947; **Gulbarga:** PPS Motors: 92811 13811; **Udupi:** TAFE Access: 78743 34444; **Shivammogga:** TAFE Access: 78742 23333

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